

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated June 28, 2011 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 13, 16, 20, 24, 26, 28, 31, 32, 36, 38, 38, 39, 41, 44, 45, 49, 51, 57, and 61 are hereby amended. Claims 2, 15, 27, 40, and 52 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 12, 25, 37, 50, and 62 were canceled previously. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, at *Specification*, page 4, lines 130-133. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-11, 13, 14, 16-24, 26, 28-36, 38, 39, 41-49, 51, and 53-61 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7-11, 13, 14, 20-24, 26, 32-36, 38, 39, 45-49, 51, and 57-61 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for complying with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Office Action states the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for the recited phrase “metal complex” in independent claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

For the sole purpose of expediting prosecution, and not necessarily agreeing with the Office Action, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 13, 26, 38, and 51 to recite “a metal orthoester.” The Office Action agrees that the specification provides enablement for metal orthoesters. *Office Action*, page 2. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the enablement rejection of claims 1, 7-11, 13, 14, 20-24, 26, 32-36, 38, 39, 45-49, 51, and 57-61.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11, 13-14, 26-36, 38-49, and 51-61 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for complying with the written description requirement. Claims 2, 15, 27, 40, and 52 are canceled, so the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the remaining claims.

The Office Action states that the specification fails to describe how to make a ketone-formaldehyde copolymer having terminal or pendant hydroxyl and/or carboxyl groups. Applicants respectfully disagree. The present invention discloses “the **hydroxylated or**

carboxylated polymer used to prepare the reactive hydroxylated polymer can be any polymer having terminal and/or pendant hydroxyl or carboxyl groups. These can be either natural or synthetic resins, including (but not limited to) polyurethanes, polyurethane-ureas, polyamides, polyesters, polyacrylates, **ketone-formaldehyde copolymers**, nitrocellulose.” *Specification*, page 4, lines 128-132. The present invention then provides an example of preparing a reactive polymer with a ketone-formaldehyde copolymer having terminal or pendant hydroxyl and/or carboxyl groups (under the trade name “Degussa Synthetic Resin SK”). See, *Specification*, page 5, Example 1A. Applicants note that the ketone-formaldehyde copolymer used in the present application is commercially available. The specification clearly describes how to apply the ketone-formaldehyde copolymer in the claimed invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the written description rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11, 13-14, 26-36, 38-49, and 51-61 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 2, 15, 27, 40, and 52 are canceled, so the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the remaining claims.

To advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 13, 16, 20, 24, 26, 28, 31, 32, 36, 38, 39, 41, 44, 45, 49, 51, 57, and 61 to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection.

The application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: October 27, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By /Matthew T. Bailey/

Matthew T. Bailey

Registration No.: 33,829

McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-7500

Attorneys for Applicant